

---

---

## COMPETITIONS FAQ

---

---

### Why should I enter an IIDA competition?

IIDA competitions are an incredible way for design firms to gain international recognition and build professional credibility. Winning a competition means you and your firm will be promoted on IIDA social media networks to more than 200,000 IIDA followers, and showcased on our website. You also may be featured in an official Winners Brochure, honored at an IIDA reception, published in an industry publication like *Contract* or *Interior Design* magazine, and have your project featured in other IIDA initiatives.

### Where can I find competition guidelines?

Each IIDA competition has its own specific guidelines, which are all available at [iida.org/competitions](http://iida.org/competitions). Click on the link to the competition you are interested in to find the competition guidelines. Please keep in mind that guidelines are updated annually.

### How do I submit my project?

In most cases, competition entry forms are handled electronically and can be found by selecting the competition you are interested in from the list at [iida.org/competitions](http://iida.org/competitions). You will receive an email confirmation once your entry has been submitted.

### How do I pay for my submission?

After you've uploaded your materials to the electronic entry form, you'll be prompted to enter your credit card information. You will receive a separate email confirming that your payment has been received.

### Can I enter a competition if I am not an IIDA Member?

In most cases, yes. While each competition features a specific set of guidelines, most IIDA competitions are open to members and non-members, and we welcome your entry. IIDA Members are offered a special rate on competition entry fees. If you are interested in learning about how your firm can receive this rate, contact Liz Moran, Design Competitions Director, or read more about all of the benefits of IIDA membership.

### How are the entries judged?

Entries are judged by a qualified panel of jurors. We evaluate your entry based on the successful completion of project requirements, in addition to the appropriateness of the design solution and the successful integration of the elements of design.

### How important are the project images?

The project/product images are a very important component of your competition entry, so here are a few tips:

- We encourage you to hire a professional photographer to shoot your project/product. If you are not able to hire a professional photographer, use a high quality camera to capture images of your project/product.
- Lighting is key. A poorly lit area won't give our jurors a good idea of what the space looks like.
- Jurors are interested in your interior spaces, so highlight interiors as opposed to exteriors.
- Order the images in a way that tells a story about your project.
- Remove text from images.
- Composite images are not permitted.
- Renderings are not typically encouraged or allowed; however, check individual competition guidelines as we do feature a few competitions that highlight renderings.
- High-resolution images are not required, but if your project is selected as a winner, we will ask for images over 300 dpi that are suitable for publication.

---

---

## COMPETITIONS FAQ

---

---

### **How important is the project statement? Should I create a narrative or just outline the facts?**

Provide the information requested in a direct, simple style, resisting the temptation to overwrite. Highlight what makes the project unique, its technical advancements/innovations, sustainability features, client benefits, and how it raises the bar for the profession.

### **When is the submission deadline?**

Each competition deadline will be published on the IIDA website when the competition opens. By organizing your materials in advance and submitting them early, you won't have to worry about narrowly beating a deadline. Please keep in mind that all entries also must be paid for by the submission deadline.

### **My project did not win the last time it was submitted. Should I try again?**

As long as your project still meets competition guidelines, we encourage you to submit again. While your project may not change much in one year, new jurors are selected every year. What appeals to one jury may differ completely from the next. You may also want to try changing the photography or submitting in another competition.

### **When will I be notified of competition results?**

You will be notified of competition results within two weeks of the judging date.

### **What happens if I win?**

Be sure to provide appropriate contact information when submitting your project. Designate one person to serve as the point of contact for your entry, and include a direct email address and phone number. If your project is selected, an IIDA staff member will contact you with next steps. Please note that the name of the design firm will appear on awards materials the exact way it is entered on the submission form.